WHEREAS:

The City of Seattle has created a Poet Populist program, (www.seattlepoetpopulist.org), a contest held annually where residents create and recite poetry in a read-off for the purpose of being nominated and elected the city's poet populist; and

WHEREAS:

The civic poet known as the Poet Populist integrates literary arts into everyday civic life and brings poetry to those who might not otherwise be exposed to it; and

WHEREAS:

Since its inception in 1999, this program has become extremely popular, with over five-hundred people attending the first election of a poet populist and one thousand people voting last year; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge is home to many talented and aspiring poets as well as the Cambridge River Festival, this year to be held on June 16, 2007, which could serve as a forum for this contest; and

WHEREAS:

The Cambridge Poet Populist program would introduce citizens to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, while also seeking to enlighten and engage individuals in a community process; now therefore be it

ORDERED:

That the City Council go on record establishing an annual Cambridge Poet Populist, to be announced at the Cambridge River Festival, and that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to have the Cambridge Arts Council work with the Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee, Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge bookstores and relevant arts organizations with the purpose of establishing the process of electing the Poet Populist.